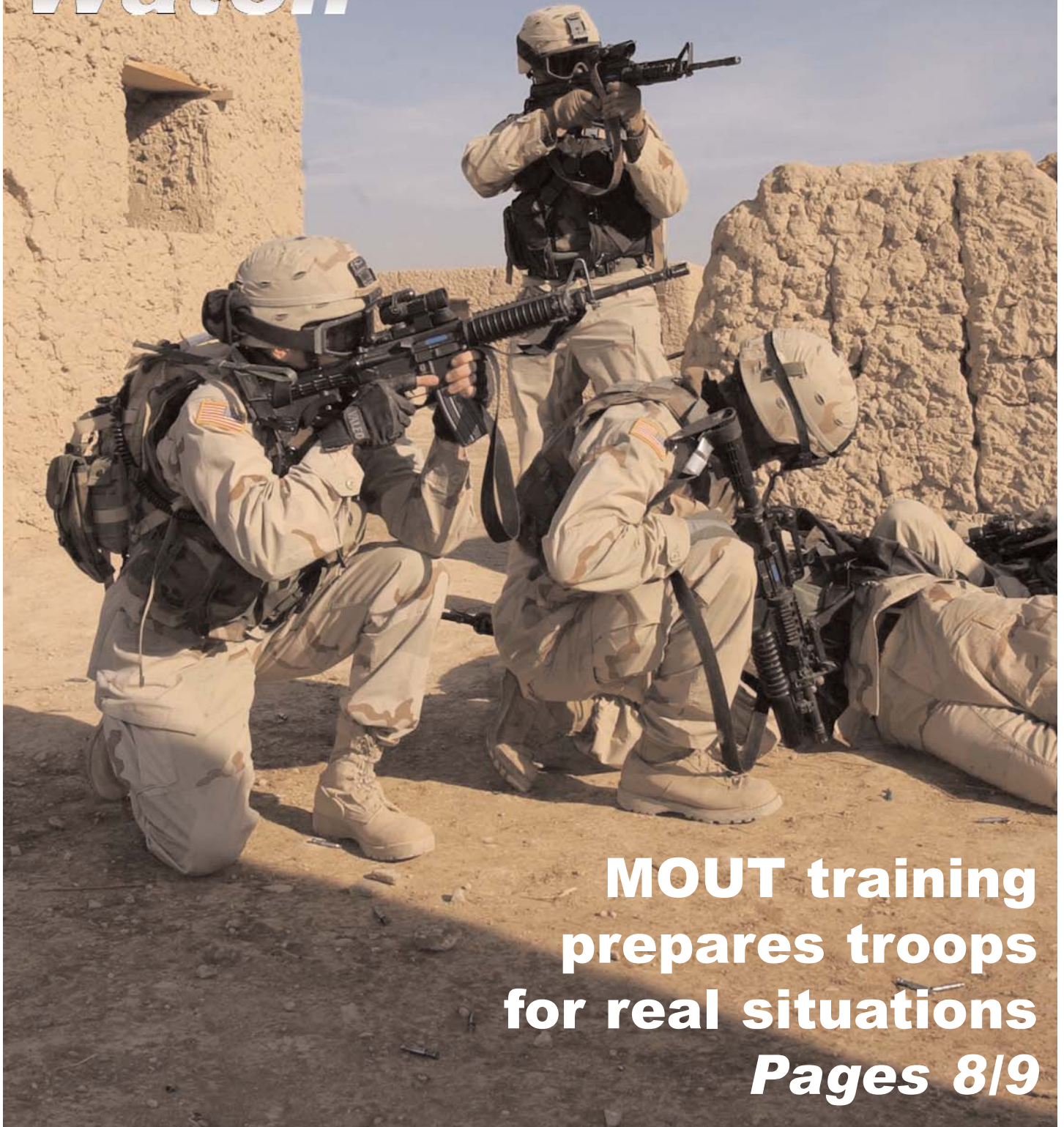


December 19, 2004

Freedom Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



**MOUT training
prepares troops
for real situations**
Pages 8/9



Capt. Kimberly Nash

If you want it done right...

Spc. Benjamin Pietsch cuts through a broken water tank in Shindand. The soldiers of the Joint Logistics Command's Forward Logistics Element were innovative and turned the broken tank into a shower. After slight modifications, they built a frame, placed sand in the base, and fitted the tank with a drain pipe. They installed a hot water heater and shower head, and it is now the nicest shower on the camp in western Afghanistan.

Contents



Soldiers of Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., engage the "enemy" at the Bagram Air Base MOUT site. The Soldiers are part of the quick reaction force on Bagram and used the site to hone their breaching and clearing skills, as well as practice moving under fire and successfully assaulting enemy-held positions.

See cover story Pages 8/9
Spc. Chris Stump

Page 3: Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, share meals with Bagram troops

Page 4: CAT-A makes change in Afghanistan a reality, helps country progress toward a better future



Page 5: Enduring Voices: What is your most memorable Christmas experience?

Page 6: ANA soldiers dedicate time, effort to improve Kabul Children's Hospital



Page 7: Soldiers take to airwaves to bring news to Afghans in Orgun-E

◀ **Page 10:** 'Operation Colgate' reaches out to inform Afghan girls, build bond with Coalition

Page 11: Enduring Images: Combat Camera's lenses capture activities of Coalition around CJOA

Page 12: Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Soldiers lend a hand to help Afghan returnees



Page 13: Safeguarding the Coalition: Leaders share lessons learned from Operation Enduring Freedom

Page 14: TF 168 NCO dedicated to putting shoes on the feet of Afghan children

Page 15: Letter to the editor

Freedom *Watch*

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Cheney, Rumsfeld visit Bagram troops

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Terry Anderson
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited troops here Dec. 7 before attending the Afghanistan presidential inauguration in the capital of Kabul.

Cheney and Rumsfeld arrived at Bagram early and had breakfast with troops at two different locations on base, applauding their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

“A watching world has seen once again that the U.S. military is one of the greatest forces for good on this earth,” said Cheney. “You’re giving some of the best years of your lives in service to your country, at the time when we need you the most. Your work is part of the worldwide campaign against terror. Your task is immense, it is urgent, and it is vital for our country’s freedom and security. Your children and my grandchildren will live in freedom because of what you are doing today.”

More than 200 service members from Combined Joint Task Force-76 attended an early morning breakfast at the Viper Dining Facility for the opportunity to eat with Cheney and his wife, Lynne.

Cheney also administered the oath of reenlistment to 30 Soldiers, and pinned

medals ranging from the Army Commendation Medal to the Bronze Star Medal on several service members.

Cheney said the war on terror is going to be a long fight, and will take tremendous resolve.

“America’s willingness to lead the fight against terror has come at a cost,” he said. “We’ve lost some of the finest people in our military, whose names we will honor forever. Recently, we experienced the great loss of Lt. Col. Mike McMahon, a cavalryman with (3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment). By their sacrifice and your continuing mission, we will one day overcome the threat of terror.”

Cheney is the highest-ranking American official to visit Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Rumsfeld toured Camp Vance, the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force compound on Bagram, and had breakfast with



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tours Camp Vance on Bagram Air Base Dec. 7 with Col. Jeffrey Waddell, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force commander.



Vice President Dick Cheney poses for photos with troops at Bagram Air Base’s Viper Dining Facility following breakfast and a reenlistment and awards ceremony.

Soldiers there. Special Operations Soldiers are spread out across Afghanistan, fighting insurgents and helping the Afghan people reclaim their country after 30 years of war. Rumsfeld spoke to the Soldiers on Camp Vance and said the Coalition’s presence has had a huge impact on Afghanistan.

“Twenty-five million people have been liberated,” said Rumsfeld. “These (Soldiers) right here will look back in five years and know they have been a part of something enormously important for this part of the world.”

Rumsfeld also said that the mission to liberate Afghanistan continues.

“There are still groups, extremists, that would like to take this country back – the Taliban, the al-Qaida – and use it for a base for terrorist activities around the world, as they did on 9/11,” said Rumsfeld. “But it’s not going to happen.”

Following their breakfasts and briefings, Cheney and Rumsfeld boarded Chinook helicopters for the flight to Kabul, where they attended Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s historic inauguration ceremony at the royal palace.

Teams work for Afghanistan's future

CAT-A Soldiers help Afghans help themselves

Story and photos by
Spc. Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan — The Taliban attempted to turn the Afghan people against the Coalition by telling them the U.S.-led force was here to rape, pillage and burn.

But countless schools, roads and wells later, Coalition presence is met with a thumbs up and a "How are you?" nearly everywhere around Gardez and the surrounding province of Paktia.

The positive response wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the civil affairs teams working throughout the country to bring much needed utilities and supplies to the war-ravaged area.

The road to reconstruction hasn't always been easy, but dedicated members of the Army Civil Affairs branch working on Civil Affairs Teams – Alpha have brought everything they can to help the people and government of Afghanistan.

"Our ultimate mission as civil affairs is to bring legitimacy to the government," said Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cook, Civil Affairs Team – Alpha 12, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, team sergeant.

The team accomplishes its overall mission by helping communities build or rebuild, one road, school, or well at a time.

"Building something like a high school goes a long way toward showing the people the Coalition is here to do good things," said Cook.

"It definitely shows the younger generation," he said. "It's hard to change the views of grown generations who are set in their ways, but when we show the younger generations what we are about, they'll grow up with that and realize we're not the enemy."

That's the effect the Soldiers in civil affairs want – something that shows over time, not just the present.

"We're building a new orphanage and a city park in Gardez. Those will be here long after we leave, and the people can appreciate that," said Cook.

The CAT-A mission goes much deeper



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cook, CAT-A 12 team sergeant, shares a laugh with a group of local boys during an assessment near Jagi. The CAT-A members use every opportunity to reach out to the Afghan youth and show the reasons the Coalition is in Afghanistan.



Left: Sgt. Samie Lizzio, CAT-A 12 Civil Affairs sergeant, greets an Afghan man near Jagi village during an assessment of a well in the area.

than just building structures in their effort to improve the infrastructure of the country and its economy.

"We're giving them the tools to help themselves," said Sgt. Samie Lizzio, CAT-A 12 Civil Affairs sergeant.

"We're trying to get these people on the right track by giving them what they need to be successful after we're gone," he said.

Giving them what they need for success depends on who they are trying to help. But no matter who it is, the CAT-A thinks long range. They think about how it will benefit the community now, as well as five, 10, and 15 years down the road.

"We start by helping a farmer with an apple orchard," said Cook. "Right now, he employs himself. But with a well, he can increase production, hire more people and have a good business. In 20 years, he could be employing up to 100 people – a great economic improvement for the area."

It's that philosophy the CAT-A members take to every mission – improve

Afghanistan, one region at a time.

"Every contract we award, the contractor must use a percentage of labor local to that area so that money stays in the local area," said Cook.

"Remember 'Reaganomics?' It's just like that – the trickle-down effect. It will all trickle down to the people.

"I've been all over this country. With all the resources they have, they could be one of the richest in the world. If we teach them how to bring it out, they will be successful," he said.

Being a player in world commerce and reaping the benefits of a trickle-down-type system may seem rather normal, easy, or even insignificant to many from Western countries, but it's a big deal to those in Afghanistan.

"Afghans have been beat down for a hundred years," said Cook. "The people who are alive right now in this country don't know peace. If we can ease the burden and show them a better way, we're accomplishing our mission."

Enduring Voices

What is your most memorable Christmas experience?

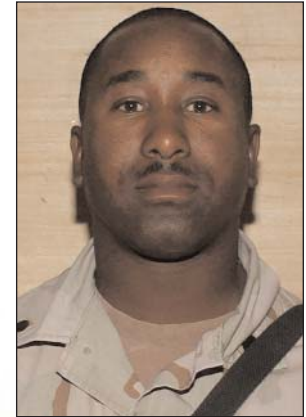
Sgt. Marlin Butler
Trp. A, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt.
"Christmas at my grandparent's house as a child."



Staff Sgt. Daniel Toleno
367th Eng. Bn.
"My sister and I cut a Christmas tree shape out of black trash bag and decorated it with crepe paper."



Chief Warrant Officer Archie Cato
Co. B, LTF 325
"This will be my first year with my wife for the holidays and we'll also have a new baby."



Spc. Keith Mitchell
Co. L, 131st Avn. Rgt.
"I enjoy being with my family, watching my kids opening their gifts. It's always a good time of year."

"There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions."

Bill McKibben
Author of *Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case For a More Joyful Christmas*



Spc. Noel Garcia
HHT, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt.
"Last year, when my mom came to Hawaii for Christmas."

Sgt. Brian Henderson
Btry. A, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt.
"This holiday season is my most memorable. It's important that everyone out here is still loved because we're with each other – we're all family."



Capt. Michael Sansone
HHT, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt.
"The holiday season of my 10 year high school reunion."

Staff Sgt. Lawrence MacCarthy
125th Sig. Bn.
"The last Christmas I spent with my grandfather."



ANA soldiers lend support to hospital

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan

POL-E-CHARKIE, Afghanistan — As the old saying goes, the best way to appreciate something is to do it for yourself.

That's what the Afghan National Army soldiers of the Central Corps' 3rd Brigade from Pol-e-Charkie are finding out. They are learning to appreciate what it means to do a little something extra for their fellow Afghans.

Not only do they want the people of Afghanistan to know they will be there for them in the big ways, like defending the country and combating its enemies, but they will also be there for them all the time, especially at the community level.

One way they are doing this is at the Kabul Children's Hospital. The soldiers are sponsoring the hospital through many projects intended to restore the hospital and enable it to provide enhanced support for local children.

The 3rd Brigade's ANA surgeon, Zazzi Rullah, let the brigade know the hospital needed help, said Lt. Col. Christopher Conley, medical advisor for the 3rd Brigade Embedded Training Team staff, New Hampshire National Guard.

Built by India in 1975, the hospital was

in need of serious assistance. The hospital has 350 beds for children and treats approximately 700 outpatients per month.

Shortly after receiving this information, Conley and staff members of the ANA met with Rohullah Rasekn, the hospital's director, to conduct an assessment.

"The day we went to the hospital, the weather was very cool and the children's rooms we visited were ice cold," said Conley.

Once they received approval, they obtained 100 heaters using a Commander's Emergency Relief Program fund. The heaters were taken to the hospital and installed by ANA soldiers with help from the hospital's electrician.

"The heaters were a welcome sight," said Mary, a veteran head nurse who has been with the hospital for 17 years.

In addition to installing the heaters, the ANA soldiers also helped with cleaning projects and prepping the hospital to get a fresh coat of paint. They regularly visit the hospital to deliver candy and gifts to ill children.

The 3rd Brigade headquarters requests each kandak (battalion) in the brigade to provide five to six soldiers to help when a visit is scheduled.



ANA soldiers give a hallway of the Kabul Children's Hospital a good cleaning.

Mohammad Khan, a 3rd Brigade soldier, said he likes coming to the hospital to help.

"It takes away from the normal day-to-day of soldering at Pol-e-Charkie. I like seeing the people, and bringing gifts and supplies to the sick children."

It's a tremendous effort for a great cause.

"I think this is an outstanding project for the ANA to support," said Conley. "This is the only hospital in Afghanistan to treat only children."

See ANA, Page 15

Religious Services Around the CJOA

Kabul Compound

Sunday

0500 - Small Group Study
0630 - Traditional Prot.
1000 - Prot. Service - U.S. Emb.
1330 - Catholic Mass - Italian Emb.
1430 - Prot. Contemporary Praise
1530 - Small Group Study 201
1530 - Small Group Study 301

Tuesday

0930 - Chaplain's Call

Wednesday

1400 - Small Group Study 401

Friday

0830 - Latter-Day Saints
1330 - Jewish Service
1330 - Small Group Study 101

Saturday

0930 - Chaplain's Call
1130 - Catholic Mass

*** All times
Zulu/GMT**

Camp Phoenix

Sunday

0430 - Catholic (Italian)
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.
1330 - Catholic (French)
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.

Tuesday

1430 - Bible Study

Wednesday

1430 - Gospel Bible Study

Saturday

1430 - Gospel Worship Service

FOB Salerno

Sunday

0300 - Foundations Bible Class
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship
0530 - Catholic Mass
0730 - Latter-Day Saints
0830 - Gospel Service
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night

Saturday

1500 - Contemporary Prot.

Bagram Air Base

Sunday

0400 - Liturgical Prot.
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass
0830 - Latter-Day Saints
0700 - Traditional Prot.
1115 - Korean Language Prot.
1300 - Gospel Service

Monday

1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

1400 - Gospel Bible Study
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal

Wednesday

1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal

Thursday

1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Friday

1430 - Jewish Prayer
1500 - Women's Bible Study

Saturday

0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal
Daily, Monday-Friday
0700 - Roman Catholic Mass
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

Kandahar Airfield

Sunday

0430 - Catholic Mass
0500 - Bible Study (325th FSB)
0630 - Prot. Worship
1330 - Gospel Choir Practice
1400 - Sunday School
1530 - Gospel Service

Monday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice

Tuesday

1430 - Purpose-driven Life Study
1300 - Gospel Choir Practice
1430 - Praise Team Practice
1530 - Bible Study

Wednesday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice
1430 - Praise Team Practice
1530 - Prot. Worship

Thursday

1430 - Praise Team Practice
1500 - Latter-Day Saints

Friday

0830 - Islamic Prayers
1330 - Jewish Sabbath Prayers

Saturday

0400 - Men's Breakfast
1300 - Catholic Mass
1430 - Praise Team Practice
Daily, Monday-Friday
0330 - Catholic Mass

Soldier-DJs use airwaves to entertain, inform Afghans

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan — It doesn't take requests, doesn't play Top 40 or run contests, but for 18-hours a day Peace Radio, channel 9.365 on short wave radio, entertains and informs residents of Paktika province with a theme that benefits both Coalition forces and Afghan civilians.

Transmitting from Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Peace Radio is run by three Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve who never expected to be disc jockeys in Afghanistan, but who are enjoying the experience because of its uniqueness.

While being a DJ may appear to be a glamorous job of picking music, that's not the reality for the Soldiers at the radio station.

Most of the operation is automated, but maintaining and monitoring the equipment falls squarely on the shoulders of the three-man crew and remains the backbone of their job.

To keep Peace Radio operating, the station has its own generator supplying power. The harsh conditions of Afghanistan require the Soldiers to remain diligent in their maintenance in order to stay operational.

"Everything having to do with the radio station we take care of," said Pfc. Donald Olsen, Peace Radio station technician.

Aside from the job of maintenance, the crew also organizes and transmits a variety

of programming.

The station plays music ranging from Afghan to Indian music, and even broadcasts four hours of international music each week.

National and local news are broadcast on Peace Radio in Dari and Pashto each day, along with other messages from the national government and Coalition forces. Children's stories are played every Wednesday and Saturday.

Although the radio station hasn't done an official listener survey, those who tune in have given feedback and the Soldiers know they are making a difference.

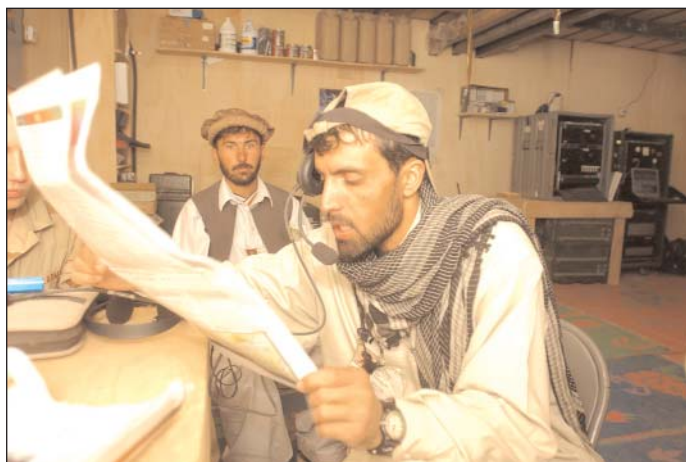
"We know that it is heard in a good part of (Paktika) province," said Staff Sgt. John Calvin, 320th Tactical Psychological Operations Company, a team that interacts regularly with the Afghan population.

With the remoteness of some villages and a low literacy rate, Peace Radio is the only link to the government for some, said Calvin.

"They appreciate hearing news," he said. "They also like the variety of music."

Peace Radio appreciates the feedback and takes any person listening as a compliment, he said.

"You would be amazed at how many stations are out there," said Olsen.



Interpreters record news messages in Pashto and Dari to be played on Peace Radio. Peace Radio concentrates on bringing news about Afghanistan's government to remote areas in Paktika province.

From stations that transmit out of Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni, to stations from Pakistan, the fact that people choose Peace Radio makes Sgt. Christi Hamby proud.

Hamby, another Peace Radio station technician, DJs as a hobby in the United States.

For her, Peace Radio is a unique experience that she didn't expect to encounter when she was first told she would deploy to Afghanistan.

"It is kind of neat because it is in the same field that I want to work in," said Hamby. "It is a good experience."

Providing a service in a remote area is also another positive aspect for the Peace Radio crew.

"I like the fact that we are making a difference," said Olsen. "People are being informed about current events and learning about their country through the service we provide. That makes me feel good."



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Sgt. Ben Reed, 551st MP Co., 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), instructs Afghan National Policemen on riot control techniques while working with a Police Tactical Advisory Team in Gardez city near the Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team. Many PRTs have integrated PTATs to provide training in support of Afghan National Police units in their areas.

*Photo by Sgt. Phillip Stukenholtz
Task Force 168, Gardez PRT*

If you have high quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to carls@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

Under Fire



MOUT site provides realistic training

Story by Rick Bretz
Mobile MOUT Team

Soldiers of Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., exchange fire with the “enemy” positioned inside the MOUT site on Bagram Air Base Dec. 6.

Photos by Spc. Chris Stump

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A village sits at the edge of Bagram Air Base. On the outside, it looks like a typical Afghan dwelling with dried mud walls and a spacious courtyard. But the inside of the buildings is a stark contrast.

The owners of these houses have a few pieces of furniture for style, but they have also installed three cameras for recording, and two speakers for sound effects in each room. This mobile village acts as the tele-

vision studio where the military’s version of a reality series plays out.

This village is where Soldiers and other warriors from the United States and other Coalition countries come to hone their urban fighting skills. They practice entering buildings and rooms, as well as moving through, clearing and engaging targets throughout the site. Preparations for when they move into a real Afghan village or town.

The mobile Military Operations on Urban Terrain training site is designed to be as authentic as possible. It also has the ability to record each troop’s movement through the terrain and buildings so it can be viewed with a critical eye during an after action review.

In addition to the video recorders storing each scene, there are also several targets in the buildings. To provide additional obstacles for advancing troops, the site

operators run a smoke machine to obscure the site, and play several different kinds of sound effects, such as a woman screaming, and several types of weapons firing.

During a take down of the buildings, the troops use training rounds called Ultimate Training Munitions, a rim-fired, chalk round that enables the shooters to use their own weapons by changing out the guts of the bolt carrier group of their M-16 rifles or M-4 carbines. The



Above: Spc. John Furhman, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., searches a target for intelligence after his team assaulted and cleared the building.

Right: Pfc. Jason Feazell, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., tries to locate the enemy’s position when he is pinned down by occupants of a MOUT site building.





A team of Soldiers gets low as they encounter incoming rounds while assaulting the MOUT village.

training is more effective for the warriors training at the site when they can use their own weapon.

This urban fighting practice site was initiated by the Department of Defense more than three years ago.

"We have tried to make the training as realistic as possible, but also keeping in mind that the site has to be durable enough to last over several years," said Bill Howsden, Anteon's Afghanistan Mobile MOUT site manager. "That means maintaining targets, replacing and repairing cameras and microphones, as well as keeping the operating software up to date."

Officials decided the Department of Defense needed a mobile MOUT site that could be delivered and set up within a short period of time. The Anteon Corporation got its marching orders and delivered mobile systems to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

The "shoot houses" are equipped with cameras, targets, and sound systems linked together with fiber optics and audio/visual hardware.

Anteon's operators, John Patrick and Rick Bretz, control the cameras, targets

and video feeds from a control room near the site. The control room displays software that allows operators to move targets by swinging them out, standing them up or raising them from a resting position. An operator also records everyone's movements and makes a video clip list so their training exercise can be viewed in the after action review theater when the training is complete.

"It is a great training opportunity for any unit that may be involved with direct contact with the enemy," said Maj. Kevin Lindsay, Task Force 168 deputy commander.

"There are some very realistic scenarios presented with outstanding feedback capabilities to capture performance. Our Soldiers really benefited from the training event at the MOUT site," he added. "I was amazed at the variety of training scenarios and the professionalism the operators presented to the Soldiers of our task force."

With everything in its place – the munitions for weapons, the realistic mud-walled village com-



Above: Staff Sgt. Robert Turner, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., trains his sights on a target during his platoon's assault on the MOUT village.

Top: Soldiers scan nearby buildings before moving out to clear another area of the site.



Spc. John Hodson, Co. C, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., engages a target while his fellow Soldiers stay low to avoid being hit with chalk training rounds.

pound, the culturally dressed role players and the recording of a fighter's movements – a warrior may remember an urban warfare tactic he learned here that can save his life in a future combat situation.

Afghans, Soldiers learn from school visit

'Operation Colgate' teaches local girls proper oral hygiene

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Terry L. Welch
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — In the hardscrabble, war-torn life lived by Afghanistan's people in the past few decades, many things fell through the cracks. The country's level of education and literacy faltered for Afghanistan's poor,

taking with it the daily rituals of personal hygiene.

Since the U.S.-led oust of the Taliban, though, schools are springing up across the country, and the literacy of Afghanistan's children is improving. And Soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Base are working to get Afghan children back on the road to a healthier lifestyle.

Operation Colgate began when Chaplain (Capt.) Carron Naber, 125th Signal Battalion chaplain, was asked by members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas — the denomination of which she's a member — if she could help them dispense the many contributions of oral hygiene items they'd received from parishioners.

She said she could and, soon after, mail clerks were inundated with boxes of toothbrushes and toothpaste. It was there in the mailrooms, stacked high with boxes, that the name Operation Colgate was first used, and it stuck (with the approval of the Colgate-Palmolive company).

Naber began distributing the products through civil affairs units and personal trips. As word spread, other units became eager to assist.

The 125th Sig. Bn. offered to lead a convoy to a girls' school near Bagram where they not only handed out toothbrushes and toothpaste, but also taught the girls their proper use.

But it wasn't only the children who got something out of the visit.

"I think it helps to energize you," said Lt. Col. Margaret

Sullivan, a nurse with the 325th Combat Support Hospital, who had ridden along.

Naber agreed, adding that it was good for Soldiers to learn more about the mission than just their jobs.

"Soldiers need to learn the human element," she said. "They need to see at least a glimpse of the process of nation-building."

Being a girls' school in a conservative Muslim culture, however, meant that only female Soldiers were allowed to instruct the girls in the use of the toothbrushes. The girls had rarely seen women in professional positions.

"The teenage girls seemed fascinated to see us," said Sullivan.

Naber will continue to run Operation Colgate and said she appreciates what the donations say about the support of the American people.

"It demonstrates that they support the work of chaplains in the theater, tangibly and intangibly," she said. "We tend to forget that folks back home are praying for you through your deployment."



Spc. Rachel Lauber, 125th Sig. Bn., demonstrates the proper way to brush teeth to Afghan girls during a visit to a girls' school. Soldiers from the battalion gave the girls toothbrushes that were donated from families in the United States.



Above: Sgt. Leoreen Mackey, 125th Sig. Bn., pulls a toothbrush from her pocket as two girls look on.

Top: Lt. Col. Margaret Sullivan, a nurse with the 325th Combat Support Hospital, instructs Afghan girls on proper hygiene.



Spc. Jerry T. Combes

Clockwise from top: Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., conduct a raid in the Zabol Province Nov. 9. The Soldiers were looking for suspected Taliban members, weapons and materials used to make improvised explosive devices that could be used against Coalition forces. Spc. Jonathan Lootens, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., pulls security with his M-249 SAW while fellow Soldiers meet with Afghan citizens concerning raids that were conducted in Zabul province Nov. 8. Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Ackeret prepares a 105mm rocket for destruction at East River Range outside Bagram Air Base Dec. 2.

ENDURING IMAGES

Combat Camera's lenses capture activities of Coalition around CJOA



Spc. Jerry T. Combes



Sgt. J. Antonio Francis



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett

Clockwise from top: A CJTF-76 Soldier pulls security near a CH-47 Chinook helicopter outside Jildalek village Dec. 3. A Soldier with Task Force Pirate interacts with children in Jildalek village Dec. 3. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class David Stickney and Spc. Marquiesha Knight, HHC, Joint Logistics Command, load a truck with humanitarian aid to distribute to the people of Deh Hazzara, Dec. 2.



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett

Phoenix Soldiers aid Afghan returnees

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Coalition is trained to fight, but as the mission evolves from one of ousting the Taliban's remnants to reconstruction and reconciliation, the service members find themselves on the front lines of a fight that doesn't always make the headlines.

This other "war" is making life better for those who have little or nothing, and is often referred to as the "battle of winning hearts and minds," or the "non-lethal fight."

A number of Coalition members are going above and beyond the call of duty every day by volunteering to improve the lives of a little-known group of Afghan former refugees in the barren mountain range on the outskirts of the capital city of Kabul.

Tucked behind the hills near Pol-e-Charki, some members of the 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, based out of New Albany, Ind., happened upon the small village while on a reconnaissance mission.

The village consists of about 200 people, mostly children, living in tiny tents with walls of plastic and makeshift doors. What happened next, and continues to happen, was a remarkable exchange of friendship, bonding

and nation-building.

"This is one of those really feel-good missions," said Maj. Chris Lee, 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Rgt., who volunteered to help provide basic medical care to the Afghans at what his Soldiers have come to affectionately refer to as Camp Warhawk.

In Afghanistan, a large percentage of the population live nomadic lifestyles, roaming the countryside and making a living wherever they can.

About 50 Soldiers from the 76th Separate Infantry Brigade and other members of the Coalition visited the small village to deliver some much needed medical supplies, food and blankets to the villagers who live there last month.

Capt. Jim Gruber, one of the doctors with 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Rgt., who helped treat the Afghans, has been coming to Camp Warhawk since the 76th SIB assumed the mission of training the Afghan National Army about four months ago.

"When we first came out, they didn't have any care," he said. "Now, we can at least provide basic health care for such conditions as skin rashes, coughs and colds.



Lt. Col. Paul Grube (left) and Sgt. Scott Hughes, members of the 76th Separate Infantry Brigade, inventory a box of blankets to be given to a group of villagers during a recent trip a returnee camp on the outskirts of Kabul.

"I'm just glad to be able to help," said Gruber. "Sometimes it's just Band-Aid help, but it's better than what they were getting before."

Sgt. Scott Hughes has made seven trips to the camp and said his unit has delivered about 6,000 pounds of rice, 500 cans of fruit, 150 pounds of peanut butter and jelly, and 300 blankets.

"I think it's great to be able to help the kids by providing them with some basic medical treatment, some basic nutrition and helping to keep them warm for the winter," he said.

Dari/Pashto phrase of the week



Afghan cultural tidbit

Kabeli palaw is a traditional Afghan food made with rice, meat, raisins, carrots and nuts, eaten as a lunch or dinner

Dari

Good Morning

Sob Bakhia (sobe bahk-hi-are)

Good Afternoon

Zohor Bakhia (zoe-hore- bahk-hi-are)

Good Evening

Shom Bakhia (shome bahk-hi-are)

Pashto

Good Morning

Sahar mu pa khair (sa-har moo pa-kire)

Good Afternoon

Gharma mu pa khair (ghar-ma moo pa-kire)

Good Evening

Makham mu pa khair (mak-ham moo pa-kire)

NCOs lead the way to safety

Safeguarding the Coalition

Compiled by Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

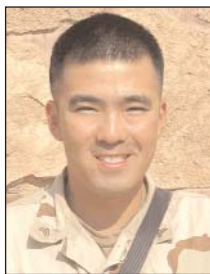
AFGHANISTAN — Someone once wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it." This is especially true for service members placed in leadership positions throughout the U.S. military.

Leaders are tasked with, among many other things, ensuring the safety of those in their charge. A good leader takes from his experiences, good or bad, and shares them with his fellow servicemen.

The *Freedom Watch* staff solicited the following vignettes from noncommissioned officers operating throughout Afghanistan, asking them to share their experiences and lessons learned while serving as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This forum will be regularly featured in future issues of the *Freedom Watch*.

Sgt. David Lee
HHT, 3rd Sqdn.,
4th Cav. Rgt.,
chaplain asst
retention NCO



“If we don't operate safely, Soldiers can get hurt, which will affect combat readiness. Every Soldier counts. The standards should be set during training. Every Soldier should be informed of the standards and retrained if necessary.

NCOs need to be willing to do what it takes to get the standards in the Soldiers' minds, and ensure they are performing all tasks according to the standard.

When I was lower enlisted, I used to think the the safety standards were 'over doing it.' But when my buddies started getting hurt by doing little things that could have been prevented by following safety procedures, you realize the standards are there for a reason.”

Sgt. Joshua Riviere
TF 168
team leader



“Safety is important to ensure the mission gets completed with the least amount of casualties.

It is up to the leadership to ensure safety procedures are being followed by the lower enlisted Soldiers. In this environment, everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings at all times. You never know what's going to happen, or where.

If Soldiers aren't paying attention, they could miss something important which could cost someone their life.”

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley
HHT, 3rd Sqdn.,
4th Cav. Rgt.,
food service
NCOIC



“Safety keeps Soldiers combat ready. By doing our job as NCOs and supervising our Soldiers, we can help keep them safe. Part of keeping the Soldiers safe includes precombat inspections and internal safety checks.

If we do our job, our Soldiers should stay safe. Out here, the environment is dangerous enough on its own.

By taking care of the preventable hazards, we can alleviate some of the additional dangers Soldiers could encounter.”

Marine Staff Sgt. Ricardo Sola
HMH 462
avionics work
center NCOIC



“Safety gets the job done and helps everyone keep all 10 of their fingers and toes. Supervision is the key.

Leaders need to keep an eye on their Marines throughout the day and check-in with them regularly.

Out here, one of the biggest parts of safety is muzzle awareness. If people aren't careful with their weapons, someone could get hurt.”

Sgt. Joe O'Dell
HHT, 3rd Sqdn.,
4th Cav. Rgt.,
motorpool NCOIC



“You can't accomplish the mission if your Soldiers are injured because they didn't follow the safety standards.

To prevent injuries, NCOs should make on the spot corrections and demonstrate to the Soldiers the proper way to get the mission accomplished.”

Sgt. Juan Maya
Co. A, 2nd Bn.,
27th Inf. Rgt.,
squad leader



“Being in a combat zone adds to the importance of safety. People's lives depend on Soldiers following safety procedures.

For instance, we have had several instances where Soldiers have been injured because safety standards weren't adhered to. To keep Soldiers safe, NCOs need to train their Soldiers properly and supervise them while they are working until they feel the Soldiers know the standards well enough to be left on their own.

At that point, they should conduct spot checks to ensure the Soldiers are still doing the right thing when no one is looking. It is important for Soldiers to look around and make sure the Soldiers to their left and right are doing the right thing and staying safe.”

Staff Sgt. Shane Reed
125th Sig. Bn.
section sergeant



“Safety means ensuring that yourself and your Soldiers are taken care of and everyone is looking out for each other.

We have weekly safety classes so that the Soldiers know the standards and what they have to do to ensure those standards are met. One thing I have learned is that you have to be more aware of your surroundings.”

TF 168 Soldier organizes 'Shoes for Kids'

Story by Spc. Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM, Afghanistan — When Staff Sgt. Mark Matteson rode through an Afghan village for the first time, he saw barefoot children everywhere. Not because they didn't want to wear their shoes, but because they had none.

"When I got here, I rode through the towns — you see the children — it hits you right in the heart. Or at least that's how it is for me," said Matteson of the shoeless children who can be seen in nearly every city, town and village throughout the country.

Matteson is a member of Task Force 168 and the Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team, a position perfect for someone with a plan to give to those in need.

His plan is to provide shoes for every child he can while he's here.

Working within an organization like a PRT, who's goal is to provide stability and reconstruction, has allowed Matteson to provide where he's seen a need in the local population.

"I saw the kids with no shoes, and I wrote back home to tell them what's going on here," he said about how he started his "Shoes for Kids" program. Volunteers stateside gather shoes and mail them to him in Afghanistan to donate to the children.

To date, Matteson estimates he's received over 7,000 pairs of shoes from those in his native Iowa.

"It kicked off so big, there will still be shoes coming in after I leave next June," he said.

And it's not only shoes that are coming in now.

The people organizing the drive back home thought the children, and their families, might need a little something extra to keep them warm during the coming winter.

"It's gotten to the point where people aren't just sending shoes, they're sending blankets, clothes, everything," said Matteson.

"You know the handmade quilts people make back home?" he asked.



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Billy Jack Scharp, HHC, LTF 725, ties shoes on an Afghan girl near Zormat last month. Scharp and other Soldiers and Marines from the Gardez PRT made the trip to give shoes and other clothing items to those in need. Most of the items distributed were donated from troops' families in support of "Shoes for Kids," a program organized by a member of TF 168.

"They're sending those, too!"

Whenever there's enough to give out a large quantity at once, a group from the PRT will take a truck full of these donations and distribute them to the community.

This gives Matteson the satisfaction of knowing more children have what they need, and it gives the Soldiers and Marines at the PRT a chance to see the smiles on the faces of the children when they give them a pair of shoes, a

eyes," he said.

And the troops also appreciate the care and concern Soldiers like Matteson display.

"He's a multitasker. Doing this on the side, in addition to everything he's responsible for, is really unbelievable," said Brown.

"A lot of respect goes out to him for caring and doing this."

"He takes time that he really doesn't have and puts it into helping others. Real selfless service," he added.

But the smiles on the children's faces are all the praise Matteson really needs.

"It's one of the best things I've ever done," said Matteson. "I think it's one of the greatest things in the world."

"I hope to put shoes on every one of those kids in Gardez. Clothes and socks and everything else those kids need."

What started as the genuine concern of one Soldier for the children he's seen, has turned into a full-fledged mission to provide for many what they aren't able to provide themselves. Something Matteson values greatly after seeing first-hand how rugged life can be for some.

"Seeing those kids gets me," said Matteson. "It hits me hard."



"I hope to put shoes on every one of those kids in Gardez."

Staff Sgt. Mark Matteson
TF 168, Gardez PRT

toy or a blanket.

"You get a sense of pride in helping, because you know they really need it," said Sgt. Michael Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Logistical Task Force 725 and Gardez PRT.

"Every kid I gave a pair of shoes or a blanket to — I saw my own little girl's

Dear Editor 'If America fails, humanity fails,' says reader

In a recent conversation, an individual revealed to me that he believed that this Nation, the United States of America, was founded upon a lie. I explained that I disagree. I believe that our Nation was founded upon an idea, an idea that has been expounded upon and improved upon decade by decade.

That idea was funded by the greed and the generosity of many, and the hard labor of the masses. Patriots all. No matter their motive.

We will someday achieve that idea – globally!

Whether the conservatives or liberals, or the Adamases, Bushes, Carlysles, Vanderbilts, Carnegies, Kennedys, or whoever comes into power in the coming centuries, want this to truly come about is immaterial.

We, the citizens of the United States of America, have worked toward that idea relentlessly since the inception of our nationhood. The human spirit will see it through. We have been aided sometimes by the masses on the outside looking in – those who see the potential in the U.S. and its Idea, those who have flocked to the shores

of America and have contributed over the previous 200 years.

There will be setbacks. But we will see it through.

America is the world's first nation founded upon the idea that all men are created equal.

That is the idea.

It wasn't the reality in 1776, but it was the idea which the Founding Fathers put to paper, starting the revolution that led to American Independence.

That idea was not a lie.

That is why I stand behind America, her Allies, Afghanistan and this new Iraq War. These actions push in the right direction.

Many Americans care not for the plight of the people beyond our borders. They could care less, and some even wish fervently that America will fail in this new endeavor.

But if America fails, humanity fails. A great part of humanity will fall back under the iniquitous spell of tyranny.

For some of you this is of little consequence. You are free and that is all that matters in your piece of the world.

In the grand worldview, one man not free, shackles the ankles of all free men.

Humanity will not be free until all are free.

Until we are all truly equal. Men, women, black, white, American, Russian, Christian, Muslim, Jew. There shall never exist truly free nations until all nations are blessed with the right of self-determination, liberty and free will.

America was not founded upon a lie. She was founded upon an idea. That idea has yet to reach it's full and true potential. Not in America and especially not in the world at large.

Until that idea becomes a reality the world over, we are all in danger.

That danger has many faces. Tyranny is its name. It can be found hiding behind communism, fascism, socialism, capitalism, Islam, Christianity, Big Business, and even something as seemingly innocuous as political correctness.

The idea is the important thing. Turning that idea into a global reality should be the ultimate goal of any free people.

(Editor's Note: This letter is the personal opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the official view of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.)

Dave Kaelin

TF Eagle Installation Property

ANA: Afghan soldiers donate time, efforts at hospital

continued from Page 6

"Now that the Americans have helped with setting the program up, it belongs strictly to the ANA. We come along as needed to forecast CERP funds," said Conley.

Stories about U.S. Soldiers giving of their time and energy to help with schools and conduct community service are commonplace wherever they serve, at home and abroad. Even in combat zones, U.S. Soldiers will find time to help

those who need help.

As with so much else that they have in common with their fellow brothers-in-arms, the soldiers of the ANA share this desire to help those in the community outside their camps and compounds.

For the men of 3rd Brigade of the ANA, that desire is heightened by knowing that those they help are the children who are the future of Afghanistan. The same generation the ANA has pledged to defend.

Letters to the Editor

The *Freedom Watch* would like to publish your opinions on topics of importance and interest to those serving in OEF.

Please send your thoughts in letter form to the editor. All letters e-mailed must include full name, unit, address and, when possible, telephone number. We will not print anonymous letters. Please limit all letters to 200 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and decorum.

Please avoid implying criticism of U.S. or DoD policies and programs, advocating or disputing specific political, diplomatic or legislative matters, or implying criticism of host nation or host nation sensitivities.

Please send your letters to:
carls@baf.afgn.army.mil

We look forward to hearing from you!

OEF "Values" Essay Contest

All personnel serving in Afghanistan are invited to participate in the Operation Enduring Freedom bi-monthly "Values" Essay Contest sponsored by CJTF-76.

The current value is "**Selfless Service.**"

Rules

- ☐ Essays should include the definition of the featured value and your own experience(s) that reinforce this value
- ☐ Essays will be at least one and no more than two pages (typed/neatly printed and double-spaced)
- ☐ Please include a cover page with Title, Author's Name, Supervisor's Name, Unit/Organization, Phone Number and e-mail address if available
- ☐ Do not put name directly on essay
- ☐ Submit essays to EO Adviser nearest your location, via e-mail or hard copy by **Dec. 25.**

The winning essay writer will receive a Commanding General's Certificate of Achievement and other prizes to be announced. The essay will also be published in a future issue of the *Freedom Watch*, and in the bi-monthly EO Update.

EO is also looking for E-7s and above to help review essay submissions and select the winning essay.

Call the Bagram EO Senior Adviser at DSN 318-231-3021 for more information.

A photograph of two soldiers in camouflage uniforms decorating a large, brightly lit Christmas tree. The tree is covered in warm white lights and various ornaments, including red, gold, and blue baubles, as well as larger decorative items like a Santa Claus figure and a reindeer. One soldier on the left is reaching up to place an ornament, while the other on the right looks up at the tree with a smile. In the background, a balcony with a wooden railing is visible, decorated with Santa Claus cutouts and garlands. The room has a warm, festive atmosphere.

Freedom Watch

December 19, 2004

Holiday Spirit